

## Chemotherapy safety in the home

After chemotherapy is given to your child the medication may remain in their body for up to one week. This depends on the type of medication given. Chemotherapy leaves the body through urine, faeces (or stool) and vomit.

Some people caring or coming into contact with children having chemotherapy worry about the safety of family and friends. There is little risk to other family members or visitors (including children, babies and pregnant women) if appropriate safety measures are taken.

Follow these safety recommendations to reduce the exposure to chemotherapy at home for your family and friends. Safety precautions can vary depending on the medications your child receives as well as when and where they receive them, so please check with your consulting team.

### Safety for the family

- Hugging and kissing your child is safe for family members or visitors (best to avoid if family member or visitor has a cold or other illness which could be passed onto your child).
- There is no risk to pregnant women being around your child (if possible they should not clean up any body fluids after treatment. If it is necessary, then disposable nitrile gloves must be worn).
- Family members can share the same bathroom and toilet. If body fluids splash on the toilet, wear gloves and clean the area with soap and water before others use the toilet.
- You can still safely breastfeed your child if they are receiving chemotherapy.



### Take care going to the toilet

For a week after treatment your child should sit down to use the toilet (for both boys and girls). Put the lid down before flushing to avoid splashing.

Wear gloves when changing nappies. Disposable nappies should be placed in a plastic bag and discarded with regular waste.



## Wear disposable gloves

During the week after treatment, wear disposable nitrile (purple) gloves when handling clothing, nappies or bedsheets soiled with vomit or other body fluids/waste.

Remove gloves carefully after use and dispose of in a plastic bag and place with regular waste. It is best to wash your hands after taking off the gloves.

## Cleaning up spills

Keep a supply of cleaning cloths, paper towels and disposable gloves handy.

If any body fluids (vomit, wee, poo etc.) or chemotherapy medications spill on household surfaces, put on a pair of nitrile gloves, soak up the spill with paper towels, clean around the area with a disposable cloth and soapy water, and rinse the area with water.

Seal used gloves, cloths and paper towels in a plastic bag before putting them in the bin.

If you come in contact with body fluid (vomit, wee etc.) from your child, remove any affected clothing. Wash contacted areas of skin with soap and water and wash contaminated clothing in a separate cycle.



## Handle laundry carefully

Wash clothing or other items soiled with body fluids separately from other items. If possible, it is best to wash contaminated laundry straight away. Use the longest washing machine cycle (hot or cold water can be used). Line dry the items after washing.

Dirty clothing that are not soiled with body waste can be touched and washed as usual.



Government of Western Australia  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009.  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
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